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## WOOD FUEL IN WARTIME

Ruth Van Deman, Bureau of Home Economics, U.S.D.A. Broadcast in the Department portion of the National Farm and Home Hour Thursday, December 10, 1942, over stations associated with the Blue Network.

—ooOoo—

WALLACE KADDERLY: Here in Washington we're ready with information on wood as fuel and on at least one way to produce more eggs. We'll warm up with information for the wood-chopper of the family. Ruth, I believe you're going to tell us how to keep warm with a fireplace.

RUTH VAN DEMAN: Just between you and me, Wallace, I've found that whether a fireplace keeps you warm depends a lot on whether you chop your own logs.

KADDERLY: What's that got to do with it?

VAN DEMAN: Don't you know that "he who cuts his own wood is twice warmed"? While he cuts the wood — and while the logs burn cheerily in the fireplace.

KADDERLY: And whether the logs burn cheerily, or just smolder — depends on the kind of wood you burn, and whether the wood is properly seasoned.

VAN DEMAN: It certainly does. I've been making a study of wood this week. First off, I sent for a copy of a new bulletin I have here today, Number 1912, called "Wood Fuel in Wartime." Along with the bulletin came this note from a friend in the Forest Service: "It's still not too late to cut dry dead wood, and not too early to begin cutting green wood for next winter's supply." Pretty good advice?

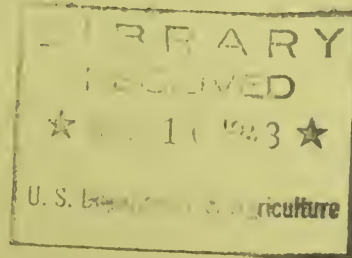
KADDERLY: Excellent, if there's a supply of wood not too far away from where you live. The more wood we burn — instead of oil and coal, which must be brought from mines and wells hundreds of miles away — the more ships and railroad cars can be released for hauling war materials.

VAN DEMAN: So we're helping fight the war when we burn wood for heating and cooking.

KADDERLY: Or in fireplaces, for supplementary heat. Ruth, speaking as a "tender of the fireplace," I found a lot of good information in that bulletin on what types of wood have the highest heating value — and how to season wood.

VAN DEMAN: Yes, I learned a great deal from that section. And if I were a farm woodlot owner, I'd be especially interested in the information on how to cut cordwood without damage to forest property, and how to produce and market cordwood. . . But getting back to the fireplace, there's one piece of advice that won't appeal at all to the homemaker who is, well, what you might call "pizen neat."

KADDERLY: And what's that advice?



VAN DEMAN: You should not keep the fireplace swept clean of ashes. Keep the ashes almost to the level of the andirons, so they'll form a bed for the accumulation of glowing charcoal — and you'll have steady heat. Do you mind if I quote a bit from a fireplace "essay" I read the other day?

KADDERLY: We'd like to hear it..

VAN DEMAN: "One thing about a fireplace: You don't have to own a ration book to keep it going. Heating engineers may moan about inefficiency and meticulous housewives may groan about wood ashes, but a good many folks are thankful now if they have a hearth and the firewood to feed it. Particularly if they also have an oil-burner."

KADDERLY: That's me, Ruth. Read on.

VAN DEMAN: "The fireplace shoveled and kept clean each morning is doomed to failure; all it does is burn wood, and burn it quickly."

KADDERLY: How true, how true!

VAN DEMAN: "A hearth fire needs a bed of ashes, deep and comforting. The real fire-tender cherishes his ashes, gloats when they top the firedogs, beds his backlog in them and achieves a hearthglow that will outlast any blizzard."\* That's all, Mr. Kadderly.

KADDERLY: Thank you, Ruth Van Deman. And now, especially for farm woodlot owners, I'd like to repeat the name of the bulletin we mentioned, "Wood Fuel in Wartime." You may get a copy by sending your name and address to the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

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\*New York Times, November 15, 1942